GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:44
ANSWERED ON:18.02.2009
KNOWLEDGE KIOSKS IN PANCHAYATS
Reddy Shri Magunta Sreenivasulu

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up knowledge-kiosks in panchayats for extending the benefits of information and communication technology to the rural people, specially women and the poor;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which these kiosks are likely to be set up; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in this regard ?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a), (b), (c) & (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PARTS (a), (b), (c) and (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 44, DUE FOR REPLY ON 18.2.2009, REGARDING KNOWLEDGE-KIOSKS IN PANCHAYATS.

(a): Yes, Sir. The Government proposes to extend the benefits of information and communication technology (ICT) to all sections of the rural population of the country through the proposed Centrally Sponsored Scheme for e-governance in Panchayati Raj Institutions (e-PRIs). The proposed scheme will bring about improved governance and improved service delivery through the Panchayats and enable greater accountability of Panchayati Raj Institutions to the community and other authorities. The project will also result in better implementation and monitoring of schemes, efficient and transparent utilization of funds, and will enable rural people linkage to access the external world of knowledge and markets. Induction of ICT at the panchayats level on such a large scale will eventually result in building ICT culture at the level of the masses. ICT will thus, contribute to "Inclusive Growth" through "Inclusive Governance".

(b): In the proposed scheme, all Village and Block Panchayats are to be provided with ICT infrastructure (Computer, Printer, UPS and Web Camera) and broadband connectivity. Appropriate software applications will also be deployed so as to enable Panchayats meet the service needs of various stakeholders such as citizens, States/UTs and the Central Government.

(c): A time-line of three years is proposed for the complete roll-out of the project.

(d): A National Programme Committee (NPC) under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Panchayati Raj has been set up. NPC is responsible for setting the mission and vision of the project; approving projects under e-PRI; putting in place suitable instruments and mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the projects at periodic intervals; and reviewing the implementation of the projects. Based on the recommendations of the NPC, the details of project design and implementation are being formulated.